

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070816

FOR WORTZEL FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, YO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. CODEL ROSTENKOWSKI. YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED OPEN CHANNEL MESSAGE FROM H ON CODEL WHICH MAY NOT MAKE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THAT CODEL DOES NOT WISH TO BE "OVERSCHEDULED" IN BELGRADE. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THEY DESIRE ONLY TWO OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS: ONE WITH EITHER TITO OR ONE OF THE "LIKELY SUCCESSORS" IN THE PRESIDENCY; AND ONE WITH A LEGISLATIVE FIGURE, PREFERABLY GLIGOROV. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FRIDAY AFTERNOON FREE FOR SHOPPING, SO WOULD PREFER TO SEE APPOINTMENTS OVER BY EARLY AFTERNOON. WITH REGARD TO DAVID'S RETURN TO U.S. ON CODEL FLIGHT, OFFICIAL O.K. NOT YET GIVEN BUT STAFF PREDICTS NO PROBLEM.

2. OVERFLIGHTS ISSUE. AS AMBASSADOR WILL NO DOUBT HAVE TOLD YOU, THERE ARE CONTINUING PRESS INQUIRIES ON OVERFLIGHTS
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ISSUE. ON FRIDAY THERE WAS QUERY BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, WHICH SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF YUGOSLAVS THREATENED TO SHOOT DOWN U.S. PLANE. WE HAVE BEEN ARGUING WITH NAVY OVER WORDING OF ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION AND, AS AMBASSADOR AWARE, HAVE URGED DIRECT REFUTATION. WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED YUGOSLAV EMBASSY ABOUT QUERIES AND RESPONSES. VANCE

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